United Nations A/67/298

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 August 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award, 2012

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in resolution 36/201. The report covers the year 2012 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

* A/67/150.

12-46035 (E) 210812

Please recycle

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, 2012

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201 entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selects the laureate for the Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. In decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the United Nations Population Award, so that an individual and an institution could share the award.

4. In decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the Population Award accordingly.

5. The current elected members of the Committee are Bangladesh, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. During its first regular meeting, on 15 February 2012, the Committee re-elected Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz (Egypt) as Chair of the Committee for 2012. The Committee subsequently agreed that Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, who replaced Ambassador Abdelaziz as the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, should complete the remainder of the term.

II. United Nations Population Award, 2012

7. The Committee received 16 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2012 Award. Of these, nine were for the individual category and seven were for the institutional category. On 16 March 2012, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Ms. Adrienne Germain of the United States of America in the individual category, and the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia, in the institutional category.

8. The Committee selected Ms. Germain in recognition of her pioneering contribution in linking population policies with the status of women, as far back as 1975, as well as for her contribution to reshaping the global agenda on women's health and human rights. The Committee cited her role in elaborating and championing the concept of reproductive health and her extensive writing in the areas of family planning and reproductive health. In addition, the Committee considered Ms. Germain's contribution to global efforts to improve the status and

health of women and girls, and her role as an advocate in building worldwide networks to promote sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

9. Ms. Germain is a social sciences academician and programme manager from the United States of America. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, with honours, from Wellesley College in 1969, and a Master of Arts degree in sociology, with a minor in demography, from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1971. She later received two distinguished fellowships from the Ford Foundation and from the Population Council. She began her career as a staff associate in family planning evaluation at the Population Council (1970-1972), then worked in the Population Office of the Ford Foundation (1972-1976) and in the Office of the Vice-President, as project specialist (1976-1981). From 1981 to 1985, Ms. Germain was the representative of the Ford Foundation in Bangladesh. From 1986, she worked for the International Women's Health Coalition as its Vice-President, and, from 1998, as its President, until her retirement in 2011.

10. Ms. Germain is a prolific writer in the area of family planning and reproductive health. She is recognized as one of the pioneers that linked fertility and population policies with the status of women. As a programme manager, Ms. Germain convened and participated in numerous meetings that linked women's health and population issues. She has served as an adviser to numerous international population programmes, including those of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Government of the United States of America. She was one of the experts invited by the World Health Organization to assist it in preparing its reproductive health strategy. She has also participated in the Millennium Project Task Force on Maternal and Child Health; the UNAIDS Global Task Force on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV; and the Gender Knowledge Network of the Global Commission on Social Determinants of Health.

11. Ms. Germain played a key role as a member of the delegation of the United States of America to the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 and in its preparatory work, as well as in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995 in Beijing. Her advocacy activities, and particularly her ability as a negotiator, have made her a leading force in elucidating the nature of population issues, in finding their determinants, and in designing programmes and taking action leading to their solutions. Ms. Germain is also recognized as a prominent scholar who has successfully mobilized women in her own country; on the international level, she has built a platform based on the defence of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

12. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia (FRHAM) for its achievements in advocating reproductive health, in advancing the health and status of women and children in Malaysia by promoting family planning, and for its success in serving one of every four new users of family planning services and one sixth of all users of family planning services in Malaysia. The Committee cited the role of FRHAM in bringing visibility to family planning in Malaysia and elsewhere in Asia by promoting the motto "not too early, not too late, and not too close", as well as for its commitment to improving the lives of disadvantaged communities, including refugees, sex workers, and transsexual and marginalized youth at juvenile homes and orphanages.

13. FRHAM is a non-governmental organization composed of 13 State member associations. It has its legal base in Subang Jaya, Malaysia. It was originally established in 1958 to educate Malaysians about family planning and responsible parenthood, and to promote and support effective family planning and sexual and reproductive health services. In 2009, it changed its name, the Federation of Family Planning Associations, to its current name, the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia, in order to reflect the new emphasis on reproductive health. FRHAM is the leading non-governmental organization in the area of population, family planning, and sexual and reproductive health in Malaysia. It works closely with governmental organizations at national and local levels.

14. FRHAM operates on the basis of the Strategic Plan towards Vision 2020, adopted in 2003 by the Federation of Family Planning Associations of Malaysia. FRHAM works in close collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The Strategic Plan is aligned with the decennial Strategic Framework adopted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation for 2005 to 2015, which focuses on the five As: Access, Adolescents, Advocacy, AIDS/HIV and Abortion. FHRAM gained visibility in Malaysia and other Asian countries by promoting its motto "not too early, not too late, and not too close", to emphasize the value of family planning in contributing to the health of mothers and children. FRHAM produces a number of publications for the general public on reproductive health; its other publications include a series of training manuals for health providers. These publications are available in English and Malay; many of them are also available in Chinese and Tamil.

15. In addition to the Ministry of Health and the National Population and Family Development Board, FRHAM is one of the largest organizations devoted to reproductive health in Malaysia. Through the years, FRHAM has expanded its activities to cover disadvantaged communities, including refugees, sex workers, and transsexual and marginalized youths at juvenile homes and orphanages. Because of its achievements, the organization has received numerous awards and recognition from governmental organizations. In 1999, the United Nations recognized its pioneering work in reproductive health.

III. Financial matters

16. As of 31 December 2011, the Trust Fund of the United Nations Population Award had a total fund balance of $1,774,492.60. Interest income in 2011 was $21,311.76. Expenditures in 2012, including prizes awarded to the two laureates, totalled $85,049.11.